

ported to the President their failure to reach an agreement with the French Government.

When the dispatches were made public in the United States, the fiercest indignation against France spread throughout the country. The Republican party, as the one associated with France by tradition and tenet, was almost instantly reduced to a more feeble minority than ever before. In the House of Representatives the change of sentiment was especially remarkable. The few Republicans who stood firm could do nothing more than urge that no action should be taken until the truth could be more clearly known. This is the tone, also, of Jefferson's letters during the intensity of the excitement. His disgust was as strong as that which he felt during the Genet affair. He wrote as a man who felt his cause discredited; nor can we entirely acquit him of a species of intellectual juggling, when he maintained that not the conduct of Talleyrand, but Adams' address of May, 1797, was the chief obstacle to reconciliation and friendship between the nations.

Whatever may have been the source of the hostility of France, it is certain that the indignation of the United States was rapidly fanned by the measures which the administration pressed through Congress after the X. Y. Z. revelations. Bills for increasing the fleet and army of the country, for fortifying the harbors, for suspending all commercial intercourse with France, and for giving to the President powers absolutely discretionary in all matters of war, now rapidly passed through Congress.

In July, 1798, Washington was nominated to be Lieutenant-General of all armies which might be raised, and he accepted on the understanding that he should control the selection of all inferior general officers. Hamilton was made Inspector-General, and with Pinckney and Knox was raised to the rank of Major-General. The policy pursued in the appointment of officers for the army excited in the Republican party the deepest suspicion. Washington had accepted the command, with the express avowal that it was for an exigency, and that, when that should pass over, he would resign. In that event the senior in command, and the man whom the Federalist Senate would